

## **Brief of Meeting with Senator Kedzie on Waste Management Program Redesign August 8, 2004**

Sue Bangert and Cynthia Moore met with Senator Neal Kedzie and his assistant, Dan Johnson, in his office on August 8, 2004. Senator Kedzie was well-informed on waste management issues, as chair of the Senate Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources, former chair of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, and as sponsor of the beneficial reuse legislation. Senator Kedzie's commitment to the belief that economic development and environmental enhancement can go hand-in-hand was clear throughout our discussion.

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR DISCUSSIONS**

**MANAGEMENT OF ELECTRONIC WASTE-** Senator Kedzie is concerned about the management of electronic waste, but is also concerned that legislation unique to Wisconsin would be bad for our businesses. He expressed some interest in a regional approach, although would prefer to see a national solution advanced.

**INCINERATORS-** Senator Kedzie asked about the future for incineration in Wisconsin. He is concerned with the long-term stability of landfills and the potential for environmental harm, and was looking for information about the reliability and potential for incineration as an alternative to landfilling.

**GRAVEL PITS-** As a long-time member of the Transportation Committee, he recognizes the importance of small localized gravel pits in keeping down the costs of road construction. He would like the DNR to play a greater role in publicizing examples of successful reclamation of pits for urban development, and of strategies to use contract language to ensure that reclamation is included in the plan.

**OUT OF STATE WASTE-** We discussed the current status with out-of-state waste, the outcome of the previous two court decisions regarding Wisconsin's recycling law, and that no alternative strategies to deal with the growing problem of out-of-state waste have been identified. The DNR is monitoring the outcome of Michigan's new landfill bans and the lawsuit filed by the National Solid Waste Management Association.

**Overall Solid Waste Program -** Senator Kedzie reflected on the vast improvements he has seen over the past 25 years related to landfill design and operation. He is pleased with what the program has accomplished in this time period.

**Mercury -** We discussed briefly what was happening with mercury recovery through thermostat take-back programs, and other mercury collection programs.

### **Take Aways:**

- Factor economics into decision-making: economic growth is important to Wisconsin. It is important to take consumer costs into account as well.

- Share best practices with stakeholders so they can see what good work is occurring around the state and be motivated to follow-suit.